



**Master Chief Petty Officer Bruce “Skip” Binda
United States Navy**



Master Chief Petty Officer Bruce Binda is a 27-year veteran of the United States Navy and is currently serving as part of the *Why We Serve* speakers program. He has recently returned from an assignment in Iraq and is speaking to groups around the country about his personal experiences serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In February of 2006, he volunteered for a one-year Individual Augmentation (IA) assignment to Iraq where he served as a military advisor for the Iraqi Security Forces. While attached to the Multi-National Security Transition Command Iraq (MNSTC-I), he served with the 3rd Brigade 7th Division of the Iraqi Army in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq and completed over 125 combat missions.

Binda resides in Chula Vista, CA, where is the president of the Uptown Optimist Club and an avid Harley Davidson enthusiast. Binda graduated from Marshfield High School in Marshfield, MA and followed in the footsteps of his father by enlisting in the Navy.

“When I was a little boy my sister and I used to walk along the seawall and I used to tell her that one day I’d be a sailor,” said Binda. I joined the Navy to see the world and get a life of experience learning from different cultures. The Navy changed my life and the outlook I now have. Seeing sailors accomplish missions in other than a maritime environment makes me proud to be a sailor, proud of our country and proud of our government!”

Binda’s decorations include the Bronze Star, the Navy Commendation Medal (five awards), the Navy Achievement Medal (six awards), the Good Conduct Medal (five awards), and various service and campaign awards. Warfare qualifications include Fleet Marine Forces, Surface Warfare and Aviation Warfare.